

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ROLAND A. WOOD

Application No. 09/800,366

MAILED

NOV - 4 2005

PAT. & T.M. OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on August 8, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

A review of the application indicates that the Evidence appendix and Related proceedings appendix sections are missing from the appeal brief filed April 11, 2005. Therefore, the appeal brief does not comply with all the requirements of 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37(c) states:

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated in paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:

(ix) *Evidence appendix.* An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) *Related proceedings appendix.* An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

A supplemental brief that is in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c) is required.

Also, the examiner's answer mailed on February 16, 2005 is not in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR § 41.37. The following headings need to be corrected in order to be consistent with the appeal brief filed April 11, 2005:

Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter - replacing the Summary of the Invention section in paragraph (5).

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Evidence Relied Upon - replacing the Prior Art of Record section on paragraph (9).

Grounds of rejections to be Reviewed - replacing the Grouping of Claims and Grounds of Rejection sections in paragraph (7) and (10).

Acknowledgment of the Related Proceedings and Evidence appendices, if applicable.

A revised examiner's answer that is in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37 is required.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner to: 1) hold the appeal brief of April 11, 2005 defective; 2) request appellants to file a supplemental appeal brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37; 3) file a revised examiner's answer in response to the supplemental appeal brief and in accordance with the new rules effective September 13, 2004; and 4) for such further action as may be appropriate.

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It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of this appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

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